

HEAVEN

Outline for this study:

- I. Heaven vs. New Jerusalem defined
- II. Appearance/descriptions of Heaven
- III. God's presence in Heaven
- IV. Our presence in Heaven (perfect bodies?)
- V. Time, space, activities, etc
- VI. The Earth and the New Earth
- VII. Our role in Heaven

Questions we hope to answer?

- What will Heaven be like?
- Will I see my loved ones?
- What will we do in Heaven?
- What will our bodies be like?
- Will we be able to sin?
- Will we eat there?

I. Heaven, New Jerusalem and the Millennial Kingdom

Heaven:

1. Where God is now. (Matthew 6:9)
2. Where Jesus came from. (John 6:38)
3. Those that have died are with Jesus in Heaven (I Thes. 4:14) (II Cor. 5:8)
4. Jesus is coming from Heaven to call us to Heaven (I Thes. 4:16-17)
5. Glimpse of the throne of God to Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-4)
6. Vision of the throne of God to John (Rev. 4)
7. Jesus is preparing Heaven for us now (John 14:1-5)
- 8.

Millennial Kingdom:

Described in Psalm 72, Daniel 7:13-14, Zechariah 2:10-12

When? – Immediately after Christ returns to defeat Anti-christ

Where? His throne will be in Jerusalem – Mich. 4:1-4)

What? – Fulfillment of prophecy concerning the Kingdom

How Long? – 1000 years (mentioned 6 times in Rev. 20)

Four Groups will be there:

1. The Church – Bride of Christ (Rev. 2:26,27)
2. The OT Saints (Daniel 12:2)
3. The Tribulation Saints (Rev. 20:4)
4. Believers who survived the Tribulation (Matt. 25:31-46)

No unbeliever will enter the kingdom: Matt. 25:41,46

Those who will reign with Him:

The church – Rev. 3:21

The Tribulation Saints – Rev. 20:4,6

The Apostles – Matt. 19:27,28

Conditions:

Removal of curse – Is. 11:6-9

Satan bound – Rev. 20:2

Universal peace – Isa. 2:4

Perfect Government – Isa. 9:7)

No sickness, pain, sorrow, suffering – Isa. 33:24

Full employment, robust economy – Isa. 4:1

Longer daylight hours – Isa. 4:5

Possible unified language – Zeph. 3:9

Unified Worship of God – Isa. 45:23

Children born (to mortals) – Matt. 22:30

New Jerusalem:

1. Described in Revelation 21
2. Sought by Abraham (Hebrews 11:10)
3. New Heaven and new earth (Is. 65:17, II Peter 3:12-13)
4. Description:

- a. 1400 miles long, wide and high
- b. Lighted by God's glory
- c. 12 foundations – names of 12 apostles
- d. 12 gates – each a single pearl – with 12 names of tribes of Israel
- e. Streets of gold
- f. No curse
- g. Tree of life and river of life
- h. Tears will be wiped away
- i. No temple – for God is center of worship
- j. Inhabited by God, the Lamb, Angels and Believers
- k. Gates never shut – earth is ruled from here

Questions:

1. New Jerusalem appears at beginning or end of Millennial Kingdom? **Believed to be at the end of Millennium*
2. The church resides in Heaven (New Jerusalem) or on Earth during Millennium? *Probably both*
3. Is Heaven today destroyed and a brand New Heaven created? *God remakes the earth and the heavens above it – cleans and recreates what man and sin have hurt.*

II. Appearance and Descriptions of Heaven

Spiritually:

- a. No sin is present there (21:27)
- b. Satan is not there Revelation 20

- c. Perfect joy, peace Luke 19:38
- d. No schedule, stress, illness, death (22:3)
- e. Heavenly time:

A Biblical View of Time: Shifting from Chronos to Kairos

Ephesians 5:15-16

Such is the case with *chronos* and *kairos*. Both are Greek words which mean *time*, but they imply different things.

Chronos refers to minutes and seconds. It refers to time as a measurable resource.

Kairos is the word used for time in Ephesians 5:16 (which I examined in more detail [here](#)). Kairos means an appointed time, an opportune moment, or a due season.

The Chronos Outlook

We tend to think of our time in a chronos mindset. We think of having 24 hours in a day. We define our workweeks by the number of hours that we work. We have a list of things to do and only so much time to get everything done.

Being conscious of our minutes and seconds is a good thing. We should **number our days** as the scripture says. Our time on earth is so brief, and we want to be good stewards of every second that we have to glorify God on this earth.

But ironically, this chronos mindset can make us miss what Paul is saying in Ephesians 5. Paul instructs us to redeem the kairos – to pay attention and take advantage of the opportune times and seasons.

A Kairos View

We only have such a brief opportunity to shepherd our kids when they're still young children. When a friend is experiencing pain, we have a brief window of time in which to reach out to them.

When friends of ours were going through a rough spot in their marriage, I went to lunch with the husband. Yes, it took up some of my chronos time. But I was able to share the gospel with this unsaved friend of mine, we prayed together, and he expressed an interest in learning more about Christ. It was a kairos opportunity.

Changing Our Mindset

This requires us to make a mental shift. Instead of looking at our time as grains of sand slipping through an hourglass, we view our time as opportunities flying by. Instead of viewing our time as seconds ticking by, we realize that not every second holds the same worth.

Some moments are more valuable than other moments. The five minutes that I have a chance to share the gospel with an unsaved friend is a more valuable five minutes than when I'm processing my Email. I have to take advantage of my opportunities.

Instead the effective steward is a focused watchman whose senses are attuned to the slightest hint of an opportunity. He's a hawk on the lookout. **From Life of a Steward, Loren Pinilis**

Physically:

- a. Tree of Life Rev. 22:2
 - a. In the Garden of Eden
 - b. Type of Christ
 - c. For eating in Heaven
- b. God is our Temple (21:22)
- c. River, rainbow, beasts 22:1
- d. The throne (22:1)
- e. Our homes (mansions)
- f. Size of Heaven?

Will Heaven be big?

Yes, but with a different kind of bigness. Now, space contains us, confines us, defines us. But we can transform space into place by humanizing it, spiritualizing it. A house becomes a home, a space becomes a place, by our living in it. Heaven will be both as intimate and as unconfining as our spirits want.

No one will think it too small or too large. In a sense, it will be in us rather than we in it—not in the sense that it will be subjective, but in the sense in which stage settings and props are in a play, or part of a play, rather than the play being in or part of the setting. – Christianity Today

III. God's presence in Heaven

- a. Where God's Glory is revealed - Acts 7:55
- b. Justice is issued from here - PS 89:14
- c. Where God's will is always performed - MT 6:9-13
- d. Where God wants to fellowship with us - I Cor. 1:9

IV. Our Presence in Heaven

- a. Glorified bodies - Phil. 3:21, I Cor. 15:42-44
 - i.* First resurrection
 - ii.* Post rapture
 - iii.* Similar to our original bodies in appearance, characteristics (Moses and Elijah at Transfiguration)
- b. Placed with Christ - Eph 2:6
- c. Perfect knowledge

V. Space & Activities & Our Role

- a. Worship and glory – Rev. 14:7
- b. Fellowship with God – why we were created
- c. Duties, Service – Rev. 22:5

VI. The New Earth

- a. New Earth – current earth will be remade, fixed by God (Rev. 21:1)
- b. New Earth will be home of our eternal state with the Lord
- c. New Earth will be governed by New Jerusalem – over the Earth
- d.

VII. Questions

- a. Sleep and Rest in Heaven? - God Rested
- b. Will we work in Heaven? – There was work before the curse and sin (God and Adam)
- c. Will we know each other and remember in Heaven? Absolutely - Heavenly minded
- d. Privacy in Heaven? Revelation 2:17
- e. Lifeboat vs. Ark theology – Lifeboats simply rescue, the Ark preserved creation, returned to the created land and thrived once again
- f. Will we be creative? Is God? Yes

g. Will there be risk or hurt? – Revelation 22:2 “for the healing”